

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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1947

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT General Report on Security in Poland and the Secret Police.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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I: THE AMNESTY AND ITS RESULTS1. Results:

Rudkiewicz minister B.P. gave out the information that up to the 1st of April 1947, 20,000 people have come out into the open and that as many had been released from prisons. In reality the number of people who came out of the forests up to that date was 7,600, of which 17% were members of the PPR with murder and rape on their record, who in spite of this are still members of the PPR, of the secret police and of the administration.

Not quite 1% are members of PSL who belonged to illegal independence organizations. The largest percentage are common criminals and deserters. Political offenders were very slow in coming out and did it only in cases of absolute necessity. They suspect that coming out into the open is only pretext to more arrests and a future liquidation.

2. Preparation to the liquidation of political offenders who have come out into the open.

That the above fears were founded is proved by the directives sent out to the provincial and county UEP offices.

a. Persons who have come out into the open are only given a card showing that they have done so.

b. No repression or arrests are to be made before the 1st of May 1947 of the political nature.

c. Persons who have come out into the open will be arrested.

d. Orders will be carried out ruthlessly but successfully.

3. Amnesty at work.

It appears that outside of collecting information about those who came out into the open there was no pressure on them. This is not true about prisoners under investigation or who have been condemned. The PPR in view of the fact that the amnesty was a failure has conducted a big campaign by radio,

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press, meetings, and even lectures to children in schools. On the other hand, during that period people who were accomplishing official formalities in government offices were being prompted to come out into the open.

4. Release of political prisoners in connection with the Amnesty.

A certain number of criminals were released and since have been arrested again as recidivists. Among those released the number of political prisoners is exceptionally small.

5. Forest Bands.

Coming out into the open by these did not assume large numbers, first, because they were few left, and second, they did not have confidence in the amnesty. For example: The group "Olko" (Rzeszow, Kielce) only 14 gave up their weapons and came out.

III: THE MURDER OF GENERAL SWIERCZEWSKI.(See Addenda No. 1 dated 4/47)

General Swierczewski, Assistant Vice-Minister of national defense, was killed in a trap organized by Ukrainian bands (banderowcy) on 28 March 1947. There are, however, indications showing that this trap is not entirely the work of the UPA. Before he left for his inspection in that territory the UBP (secret police) gave him a report (maybe not by accident) which was completely false and stated that this territory is completely peaceful. Information given to the press about this incident was constantly changed. First, general Swierczewski died sitting next to the chauffeur and General Wieckowski was riding in the next car (in fact the latter arrived only the next day). In the next communiqué Swierczewski was in command of an action against an attacked group. Other reports brought still other versions. What is characteristic is the fact that pursuit was of no avail; nobody was caught; and no information about the attackers has been available. The army perhaps knew nothing, but the secret police knew for certain who were the attackers.

The background is also interesting. General Swierczewski, it appears, may have been a thorn in the side of the Soviet from the moment of his trip to New York and his interest in Slav problems in USA. There is also talk of difficulties between Swierczewski as Vice-Minister of defense and the Soviet authorities (reduction of the Polish army and reduction of weapons and ammunition); (the problem of security on the eastern frontier). Besides this, two months ago 80 soldiers under a Soviet major in Polish uniform and a captain went on a mission from which only these two officers returned after two months, declaring that the soldiers were all killed and they were only saved by taking refuge in Slovakia.

The murder of S. is quite mysterious and has not been completely explained.

III. NKVD

1. New Arrivals to Poland

Since 15 March 1947, new NKVD units have been coming to Warsaw ul. Jagiellonska, Praga. Members of these new units have orders according to which they are not allowed to be absent from their barracks during the day until 7 P.M.

2. Communications

Special telephones "WZCZ" (equipment and installations - Soviet) have been installed during the first days of March in all provincial offices of the secret police and militia hq. This is a special line linking those offices with Soviet command and the main hq. of the secret police and militia. They may be used only by specially selected personnel and only on special occasions. (Addenda 2).

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3. NKVD activity in Poland

17 February 1947 in Wroclaw a locomotive damaged a carful of wheat and when the railroad employee Giebiera went to see the damage he was shot down by the four Soviet NKVDs. The engineer Jakubiszak was also killed. The Polish authorities did not allow an investigation and did not allow any ceremonies during the funeral of the two men.

IV

1. The Budget for the Secret Police and the Militia

Officially 17 billion zloty were allotted for the secret police (90,000 men). In fact, the secret police have received 22 billion; 2 billion from the Ministry of the recovered territories, 1½ billion from the Ministry of Commerce; 1 billion from the Propaganda; 500 million from the Ministry of Food.

The transfer of these funds for the ministry of BP will be effected as need arises.

The number of employees of this ministry had also been quoted falsely, as without the militia there are 127,000. (Before 1939 there were 23,000 policemen in Poland in all). The budget of the ministry of security (B.P.) is the second biggest after that of national defense. There are more BP employees than there are people employed by ministry of education (121,000). Besides, the 127,000, there are 30,000 informers, who receive 5,000 zloty per month, aside from premiums received for special assignments. The total of BP employees militia men and informers is about 250,000 people on a territory which is smaller by 1/4 and a population reduced by 1/3 in comparison with pre-1939.

2. Present activity of the BP.

This is concentrated on the collection of materials for future opposition and observation of the ex-underground individuals. The UB is also pushing its way to every branch of the administration and the nation's economy. The UB is also taking part in PPR party life. When signatures are needed, they are provided by the secret police.

3. District authorities do not receive reports from their own UB or militia units.

V:MILITIA (M.O.)

1. The Purge

A purge is being continued in the ranks of the M.O.

2. Educational standard in the M.O.

Aiming at a higher standard and more authority for the M.O. obligatory educational courses have been instituted. An officer must graduate from high school, and N.C.O. must at least have seven grades elementary school.

3. Further increase of M.O. informer quotas.

Rzeszow, province. In March the number was 641; 206 were drafted, 13 were relieved; at the end of March there were 634 informers. For these purposes 110,000 zloty were assigned in March. For the 1st of Feb. 1947, they were 599 informers, 101 were drafted, 31 released and 60,000 zloty were assigned.

4. M.O. behavior during the floods.

Many cases of robbery by the M.O. were noted. In Czestochowa, Warsaw province, army engineers fought the militia which was robbing.

5. Attacks on M.O. Units.

Ukrainian bands are still active (Bialystok, Lublin, Rzeszow provinces) there are still attacks on the M.O. stations.

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VI: SECURITY1. The Eastern Frontier

In March operational groups conducted 48 actions against Ukrainian bands, destroyed one, killed 27 men, wounded one, and captured 11. Equipment taken was 365 items: grenades, ammunition, mines, rocket projector and one car. In comparison with February, the quantity of captured arms was greater by 23 items, 13 more actions were made, the result of which was that the casualties were greater but very few captured. Spring brought an increase in activities of the bands. The most active of which is the Bytnisk band in the Lesko-Sanok region (Swierczewski's death is attributed to this band). They were in March in total 73 attacks which is 37 more than in February. The Polish casualties were 1 UB man, 4 civilians killed, 5 civilians wounded and 13 captured. Loot from this activity is: 1 carbine, 1 automatic rifle and about 500,000 zloty.

2. Security in Poland

In comparison with the previous period criminality increased only a little. There security police were active the situation was little better. The percentage of detected crime is on the increase. Rzeszow province. 413 crimes, 165 solved. (40%) 303 investigations were made in March, 125 gave positive results. Civilians returned 367 weapons which makes 100 more than in March. It must be noted that common theft and robbery is not decreasing, this being the result of a lack of personnel at the M.O. stations and their laziness. Theft on railroads is on the decline.

VII: PROVOCATIONS

Groups of unknown individuals, probably PPR and often UB, pretending to be forest groups or Polish Army, are carrying out attacks on the population. Rzeszow, 21st Feb. 1947, individuals in Polish uniforms attacked Wladyslaw Sliwak in Kraski and telling him that he did not vote for the government they robbed him and killed him along with his wife. Such incidents are frequent in the territories where Ukrainian bands are active.

VIII: POLITICAL TRIALS

In March the trial of the members and leaders of the all Polish youth (Mlodziezy Wszachopolskiej) and of the SW (Mlodziez Wielkiej Polski - Greater Poland Youth) recruiting members mostly among university students and the Wroclaw Politechnic took place. One of the accused was found innocent. In the nearest future the trial of the WIN (Wolnosc i Niepodleglosc - Freedom and Independence) will take place in Cracow. About 50 people are involved. This trial will be prosecuted by Lt. Col. Karlinor. The accused probably will be acquitted thanks to the amnesty. The aim of this trial is discrediting WIN and the matter of prestige.

IX: CONSTRAINT OF RESIDENCE AND OF WORK

the UB are putting into force a decree on a prohibition of changes of residence and of work. (Addenda 3)

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ADDENDA NO. 1

Date of report. April 1947

This is information received from members of Swierczewski's party and the local population.

28 March 1947, Swierczewski arrived at Sanok for an inspection. From there he went to Lesko accompanied by the Sanok political officer and a lieutenant. From there he decided to go to Cisna on the frontier where there is a military post. The Colonel C.O. in Lesko tried to dissuade him; it being a risk in connection with Ukrainian bands. Swierczewski answered that he had secret police reports confirming that the region is absolutely peaceful. Got into his car and left in the direction of Waligrod. The road enters a canyon after Waligrod; both sides of the canyon are wooded and as the car was nearing this it came under fire from the front. The General's car was first and a certain distance behind came cars with the escort. First shots killed Swierczewski's chauffeur and hit his ADC. Swierczewski and the political officer jumped into the ditch. Fire here was directed at him and while he was trying to get away he was shot in the stomach. Instead of seeking shelter under a close-by bridge, standing in the water of the ditch he started looking around. The political captain, shot in the leg, was asking him to get under the bridge, at which moment two bullets struck him, one in his heart, the other in the hip. During this time, his escort started fire and the Ukrainians, seeing that Swierczewski had fallen, escaped without losses.

There were three killed and one wounded on the Polish side. All this happened at 11:00 A.M. At 1 P.M. Swierczewski was taken to Sanok from where a secret police and army unit were dispatched after the Ukrainians. These units, having arrived on the spot of action, waited around and came back from there at 6 P.M. cursing Swierczewski and the incident.

General Wieckowski from Warsaw arrived next day, 29 March 1947, after which Swierczewski's body was taken to Rzeszow by car and from there was flown to Warsaw. It must be added here that April 1, 1947, a truck with soldiers, going from Waligrod to Cisna was attacked in the same spot. This cost the lives of two Polish soldiers, two were wounded and seven taken prisoner. No casualties were suffered by the attackers.

ADDENDA NO. 2

Report on Special "WCz" telephones in Polish hq.

During the first days of March all provincial secret police and militia hq. Were linked with special telephone lines with each other and the main hq. of the militia in Warsaw and also with the nearest hq. of the Soviet army stationed in the particular province.

The Soviet authorities delivered the equipment. The directive below pertains to the manner in which these special telephone "WCz" are to be used. It appears that the installation of this system of communication has been organized to facilitate action against all opposition and to facilitate provocation.

Directive: Signed by Major General Witold, No. 23"O" 2/1/47
Special Orders No. 21. Top Secret.

In connection with the installation of special "WCz" telephones in all provincial militia hq. I order:

1. The special "WCz" telephones may only be used by the C.O. of the provincial militia and by persons designated by him as especially trustworthy.

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ADDENDA NO. 2 (cont)

2. The special "WCz" telephone will be attended during 24 hours. The c.o. of the provincial militia will designate two or three of his trustworthy employees to attend the telephone, receive and relay phonograms.
3. Phonograms on important incidents will be relayed by the special telephone to main hq. of the militia; the special incidents are:
- a. disarming of a militia unit, attack on a prison;
 - b. fight with bandits, liquidation of bands;
 - c. anti-semitic riots;
 - d. murder of a militia man;
 - e. especially urgent pursuit of bands or criminals;
 - f. internal militia cases of special importance;
 - g. important political incidents;
4. Phonograms will be short, clear and to the point. No phonograms may last more than 10 minutes.
5. C.O.s of provincial militia are personally responsible for carrying out my orders above.

ADDENDA NO. 3

Prohibition of change of place of employment.

The UB is enforcing compulsory work. Leaving your place of employment without permission is punished by court procedure, as in the USSR (pragu). Besides this, compulsory work in general has been instituted. Owners of apartments who do not work are evicted. The following directive published by the UB has been sent to all institutions so as to prevent unauthorized change of place of work, or because of personal security and fear of arrest.

The real aim of this is the continuation of observation of all citizens and to create material dependence on the state.

1. Requests from each candidate for government employment will contain a written statement on whether he has until now worked in another government employment, what his position was, and why he wishes to change.
2. If candidate was employed in a different branch of the government, demand proof that his superiors are willing to allow him this change.
3. Request an opinion about the candidate from his superiors and complete the personal records of the candidate with references of his superiors and records of his previous employment.
4. Candidates received in a new branch will be accepted only for work in the lowest category in that branch. If they should be placed in category 7, the agreement must be obtained from the head of personnel of this branch, and from the minister.

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